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To: U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft

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From: Raymond & Barbara Merritt

Subject: Microsoft settlement.

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January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Justice Department
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This is a short note with tall intention. After almost four years of litigation, negotiation, controversy and self-serving political posturing, would you and the Administration please see you're way clear to settling the Microsoft case?

This case is ripe for settlement. The main parties have reached an agreement. The court supports it. The settlement addresses the salient complaints and concerns of ALL the parties. There is no justifiable reason to prolong this process.

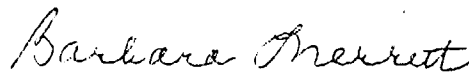
The proposed settlement will essentially require Microsoft to refrain from any future trust-like activities. The company will be required to reconfigure its Windows systems so as to readily accommodate other company's software. It will have retool its product licensing practices to the benefit of the major computer manufacturers. It will in a nutshell have to open itself up to competition. These concessions and others more than justify the government's blessing and support of the settlement.

For the sake of our economy and the future of the IT industry a settlement is appropriate and needed now.

Sincerely,



Raymond Merritt



Barbara Merritt